

Deuteronomy 26:4-10, Romans 10:8-13, Luke 4:1-13

FOCUS: God is our fortress and shield whom we can trust against the power of the devil.

The Israelites celebrated in the psalms they sang and in their rituals their deliverance from the slavery imposed on them by the Egyptians. Today we heard from Deuteronomy a prayer of gratitude to God who saved them and who gave them their land flowing with milk and honey. Their offering of first fruits was in recognition that all of the things they had, they credited to the generosity of God. One does not have to read very far in the story of Israel to realize that the people were often drawn away from the covenant of faith they professed. Time and time again they sinned against the Law given to them by God through Moses. Lured by the pull of false gods or the desire for worldly riches, they seemed to fall under the power of the devil again and again. However, God never failed to call his people back to faithfulness and kinship, and he promised to send them a savior.

In today's Gospel we hear how Jesus, having been baptized by John in the Jordan River, was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to prepare himself for his public ministry. There, He is tempted by Satan, not once, but three times. After being rebuked, Satan "departed from him for a time." Does this not sound like Jesus can expect Satan to renew his efforts in the future? The devil does not give up easily. The greater the faith of his target, the greater the challenge for Satan, and the greater the victory for evil if the righteous should fall. The devil did not cease his attempts to defeat Jesus. When Peter tried to dissuade our Lord from going to Jerusalem where he would face death, Jesus said to him, "Get behind me, Satan! You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (cf. Mt 16:23). Scripture also tells us that Satan entered into Judas that he would turn Jesus over to the chief priests (cf. Lk 22:3)

Are we not as susceptible to the ways of the devil as were the faithful people of Israel? Are we beyond the reaches of evil? The Apostles certainly were not. Friends of Jesus are targets for those who desire to defeat him. We need only to look at our own lives. Many people will admit that when they have worked and prayed very hard to overcome a particular vice, and have achieved a certain level of success, they dare not rest. A careful examination of conscience will bring to surface yet another vice that seems to rear its head in their lives.

The same devil who pursued the Holiest One is relentless in his lust for our souls as well. Does this mean there is no hope of escape? Of course not. Jesus did not leave us defenseless by any means. He left us the great sacraments of the Church to reinforce us in his love for us. He left us the Holy Spirit alive in us and in the teachings of the Church to strengthen us against every evil. We have examples of holiness before us in the lives of the saints, holy men and women sometimes bombarded by the devil, but triumphant in their trust and faithfulness to God. Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians tells us to put on the "armor of God" and use our "faith as a shield" so that we can "stand firm against the tactics of the devil" (cf. 6:11,16).

This season of Lent is the time to call on all that we have been given that we may end these forty days stronger in our love of God and of neighbor that we have ever been. Pray earnestly, do penance with a happy disposition, act charitably to those around us, and the devil will have no place to get a hold. We can pray with confidence the words of today's psalm, we "dwell in the shelter of the Most High" and say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."

MILITARY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

President-Lisa Glen	446-4874
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MCCW Outreach

Prayer Circle	Eileen Carver, 446-7165, wpprayercircle@hotmail.com
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Mercy Meals	Candice Banks, 446-0036
Shelter Meals	Carole Morris, 446-2154; Pam Lemanski, 446-7244
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Hospitality	Mary Julich, 446-1071; Vicki Wright, 446-5905
Representative at-large	Alice O'Hara, 446-5797

OUTREACH

Food for the Needy- Anyone interested in making items for the St. Patrick's soup kitchen may contact Carole Morris at 446-2154 or Mary Arredondo at 446-6891. Meals can be delivered to 21B Wilson Road, between 4 and 8 p.m. The menu for the next two months is: March - lunch/sandwiches and April dinner/chili

SCRIPTURE FOR WEEK OF Feb 29, 2004

Mon – Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18, Matthew 25:31-46

Tue – Isaiah 55: 10-11, Matthew 6: 7-15

Wed – Jonah 3: 1-10, Luke 11: 29-32

Thurs - Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25, Matthew 7:7-12

Fri – Ezekiel 18:21-28, Matthew 5:20-26

Sat – Deuteronomy 26:16-19, Matthew 5:43-48

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Sat 28 Feb 0900

Sat 28 Feb 1715

Sun 29 Feb 0900 Parishioners of MHT

Sun 29 Feb 1100 Tara & Joseph Desiomone

Mon 1 Mar 1205 Steven Toth

Tue 2 Mar 1205

Wed 3 Mar 1205 Bernice Hunter

Thurs 4 Mar 1205 Chester Broccoli

Fri 5 Mar 1205 Armand & Elizabeth Toohey-Corsi

Sat 6 Mar 0900

Attendance and Offering Last Weekend:

Attendance 700 Offering \$2,148.41

The next Designated Offering: Mar 6-7 will be for The Military Archdiocese.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST FOR MAR 6-7

1715 *E. Tollefson, M. Bayles, Cadet*

0900 *M. Beardmore, S. Weliver, Cadet*

1100 *K. Heppes, E. Kowalski, D. McGurk, B. Tiger, T. Povich, (2) Cadets*

USHERS FOR MAR 6-7

1715 *Coughlin, Zgonc*

0900 *Ninness, Massacci*

1100 *Wolfe, Rickert*

ALTAR SERVERS MAR 6-7

1715

0900

1100

LECTORS FOR MAR 6-7

1715 *Carmen Brick, Robert Balcavage*

0900 *David Ryan, Beth Vollmer*

1100 *Chris Miorin, Jacob Brady*

SUNDAY SOCIALS

Your parish needs you-no experience required. Call the Tiger's at 446-3254. Thanks.

I have a question. Whom do I call?

Pastoral Coordinator...Kate Hayden 938-8760

Chaplain's Assistant... SPC Alexander 938-3721

Director Rel-Ed... Kay Heppes... 938-8761

Faith Formation, Rel. Education of Children & Adults, RCIA.

Wedding Coordinator....Lorraine Finn...932-2784

Wedding information, scheduling, paperwork,

Pre-Can/Engaged Encounter information.

Director of Music.... Meredith Baker...938-3544

Adult, Children's and Cadet Choir, Wedding Music, Liturgical Music.

Pastor.... Fr. Joseph Deponai...938-3721

Reconciliation, Baptism, Anointing of the Sick, Pastoral and Sacramental Concerns.

Cadet Issues....Fr. Edson Wood....938-2784

Father Paul Hurley 938-2784

Visit our Web Site @<http://www.usma.edu/Chaplain/mht/>

RECONCILIATION, ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENEDICTION:

Wednesday 1820 –1930 at MHT Chapel

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: GOD'S TYM (Total Youth Ministries)

POC: Michelle Kelley @ 424-3609

February 29– NET 1700-2100

March 12 — Donations still needed for Midnight Run

The items they are in need of: new or used men's gloves, used men's shoes -sizes 10, 11 or 12 and used men's coats.

Confirmation Class Service Project

Please support one of the service projects of the MHT 2004 Confirmation Class. This project is in support of the Newburgh ministry. Please donate personal hygiene items (toothpaste, shaving cream, etc.) that will be collected in a box in the back of the church. Point of contact for this project is Marie Naessens at 446-4973.

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

7 March - Please wear your uniform in support of Girl Scouting.

Dates to Remember

Religious Education Highlights:

February 28-

Confirmation Retreat, MHT, 0900-1500, Virginia Brown, facilitator. Please pray for all the Candidates during their continued preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

February 29–

Rite of Election, 1100 Mass, Celebrant, Bishop Kaising from the Military Archdiocese. Continue to pray for the members of the RCIA process as they journey towards full initiation into the Church.

POC: "Ms. Kay" Heppes @ 938-8761, yc3921@usma.edu Save the Date and Call for tickets!

Sacred Heart School's Annual St. Patrick's Dinner Dance will be held on Friday March 12, 2004 7 PM-Midnight at Nicole's. Jerry Vaughan will be honored as Irishman of the year. Entertainment will be by "Better Days" band & performances by the Sheahan Gormley school of Dance. Tickets are 30 dollars per person.

Call Margaret Buckley 446-6639, Corina Ender 446-2177 or Lynne Kelly 446-5182 for tickets and info.

MCCW Presents "The Feminine Genius"

Encyclical title by Pope John Paul II

Wednesday, March 10 @ 7:00 PM MHT Rectory

Guest Speaker: Glory Darbellay

Glory Darbellay is a consecrated woman in Regnum Christi, a lay ecclesiastic movement in the Catholic Church. She holds a degree in Education Sciences and is completing her degree in Pastoral and Religious Studies. Presently, she serves as the Regional Director for "Challenge Clubs" and "Youth for the Third Millennium" which are national organizations that promote the integral formation of Catholic youth.

We invite you to hear how beautiful the Holy Father has explained the awesome role of women in the Church today and forever! You are very important to the Church and the salvation of others!

Join us for food, fellowship and fun!

For more program information call Elisa Bell at 446-8753.

School Registration & Open House

Open Registration begins for Sacred Heart School on March 1st from 9:00am-2:00pm for Pre-K through 8th grades. Register early to secure your spot!

Sacred Heart School will conduct an Open House for Pre-K - 8th grades on Thursday, March 4th from 4:30pm—6:30pm. A special program for Pre-K through Kindergarten begins at 9:00am. School tours will be ongoing and refreshments will be served. For information call 446-2674. Snow date is March 11th)

THE SEASON OF LENT & EASTER 2004 *Most Holy Trinity Parish Family*

Prayer: We are to seriously evaluate our prayer life during Lent. Hopefully, we will be persons who pray better on Easter Sunday!

Fasting: Catholics age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics from age 18-59 fast by limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day.

Almsgiving: We invite you to check the bulletin for opportunities to help those who are less fortunate. Our parish participates in many outreach programs.

LENTEN SCHEDULE:

Stations of the Cross/Soup Suppers: Fridays 27 Feb- 2 Apr, Stations-1800 (6:00PM), Soup-1830 (6:30 PM) MHT

Lenten Spiritual Renewal Program: Mondays, 1845- 1930; March 1, 8, 15 & 22, 2004.
(Brief Presentations & Four Different Prayer Experiences.)

Monday, March 1, 2004: Fr. Hurley on "Prayer"
Monday, March 8, 2004: Fr. Wood on "Fasting"
Monday, March 15, 2004: Fr. Deponai on "Almsgiving"
Monday, March 22, 2004: Fr. Costa on "Triduum and Lent"

Reconciliation Service: Tuesday, 30 March 2004-1900(7:00PM) MHT Chapel Every
Wednesday: Adoration & Confession: 1820-1925 (6:20-7:20PM) @ MHT

Palm Sunday: 4 April 04, Palms distributed at all Masses at MHT.

Triduum: Holy Thursday, 8 April 04, 1900 (7:00PM) Liturgy of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 2400 (12:00AM)

Good Friday, 9 April 04, 1900 (7:00PM) Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 1500 (3:00PM)
Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, 10 April 04, 2000 (8:00PM) Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, 11 April, Easter Mass 0900 & 1100

STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND SOUP SUPPER

Join us on the Fridays during Lent for Stations at 1800 and Soup & Bread at 1830. If you can bring soup or bread to share, we would be appreciative